



State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Testimony by:
Rep. Emmett Riley, 46th District
Rep. Kevin Ryan, 139th District
Sen. Cathy Osten, 19th District
Sen. Paul Formica, 20th District

SB 204: An Act Concerning Best Practices for Protecting Senior Citizens from Interaction with Sexual Offenders

February 10, 2015

Senator Flexer, Representative Serra, honorable members of the Aging Committee,

We are in strong support of SB 204, An Act Concerning Best Practices for Protecting Citizens from Interactions with Sexual Offenders.

Last year we passed a bill (which is now Special Act No. 14-20) which created a task force to study the creation of senior safety zones. The task force was to look at, among other things, data on sex offenders who prey on senior citizens, and to look at ways to limit the movement of sex offenders without affecting their constitutional rights.

The Senior Safety Zone Task Force submitted their findings to the Committee at the beginning of 2015. To highlight a few of their recommendations: they suggest providing education to law enforcement so they can properly notify senior centers when a sex offender has moved into the area, and exploring a modification to the sex offender registry to include a tiered system which would help officers and the public better understand the risk of the offender to the public.

We owe it to our most vulnerable citizens, the seniors, to protect them. We should be responsible for keeping sexual offenders away from areas where seniors congregate or reside so that they feel safe. Special Act No. 14-20 was an important first step, but we now to go a step further and take the task force's recommendations and bring them to light.

Again, we urge your support on this bill and we thank you for your time and consideration to this important matter.